# Palace shrugs off snub by leftists on peace talks bid




PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## WHAT'S INSIDE



# Senators say delay in polls 'explosive'

## *But Drilon says it's all speculation*



# Haven of rare manta rays found



## Senators hold caucus today on fate of Cha-cha

# Court decision letting Estrada go to US is a joke

COMMENTARY

'COMPAÑERA'

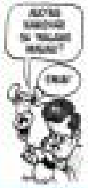
## Bet seeks late dad's post



## Lea sings to Robert at their wedding



### *Erap loses another bosom buddy*



**WEATHER FORECAST**

# Second FRONTPAGE

# Palace shrugs off snub by leftists

MALACAÑANG yesterday shrugged off the communist rebels' move to ignore the peace initiatives of President Macapagal-Arroyo, claiming that they would have to deal with her anyway since she would win this year's election.



**WATER WOES SEEN**

# DFA in the dark on peace talks

# Gov't will help Poe settle citizenship issue, says GMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan

# This time, Comelec asked to disqualify Eddie Gil

By Blanche S. Rivera

# Lakas members prefer Roco over Gloria

By Carlito Pablo

[illegible]

# Quit campaigning and get to work, JDV tells solons

[illegible]

# Senators say delay in polls 'explosive'

## Not constitutional

## No worries

## The Daily Gospel

Monday, January 12, 2004

## Supreme Court Doctrines

# Police shoot up wrong car, tag car theft victim

# Marcos heirs continue to buck high court ruling




# Court stays arrest of ex-Pasar exec

## 500 shares

## Confidential













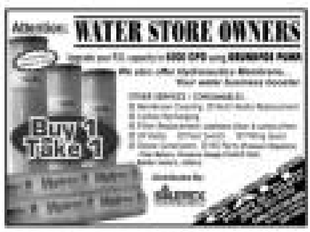








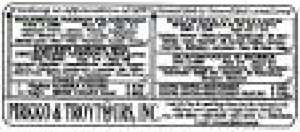







# Tourism failure explained



PORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Former Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on Saturday blamed the country's "public image and political conflicts" for the failure of his high-profile campaign "WOW Philippines" to bring in the targeted number of foreign visitors last year.

Gordon, who resigned from the Cabinet recently to run for senator under the administration ticket, lectured Philippine Military Academy cadets on the "real" impact of military adventurism after telling them about the [illegible].

The PMA earlier honored Gordon with a parade and review.

## More than SARS

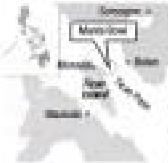
Noting that the failed Oakwood mutiny in July last year hurt the tourism industry more than the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) scare a few months earlier, the ex-tourism chief asked the cadets not to read too much into a constitutional provision that defines the soldier as the "protector of the people and the state."

Gordon said 2003 ended with a [illegible] shortfall of the target of 2.2 million visitors. Without the Oakwood incident and SARS, he stressed, the country could have drawn as many as [illegible] million, especially since the World Tourism Organization had designated last year as "Visit Philippines 2003."

The tourism department also offered cash prizes to local governments that managed to fill their quotas in foreign visitor arrivals during the period.

But Gordon said the country's image and conflicts in its institutions, including the Supreme Court and the military, had turned off foreigners. *[illegible], PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Haven of rare manta rays found




### Accidental

### Shock

### More sightings

### Migratory

### Blast fishing, harpoon

### Appeal

# Erap loses another bosom buddy

### Financial constraints



ABITO

### Cold treatment

### Malonzo's wife

# Lea sings to Robert . . .






# The WORLD

# 'Bush planned war on Iraq before 9/11'

## Ex-insider says Bush bent on invasion from the start

NEW YORK—Former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill charges in a new book that President George W. Bush entered office in January 2001 intent on invading Iraq and was in search of a way to go about it.



# UK troops kill 5 Iraqis in street clash

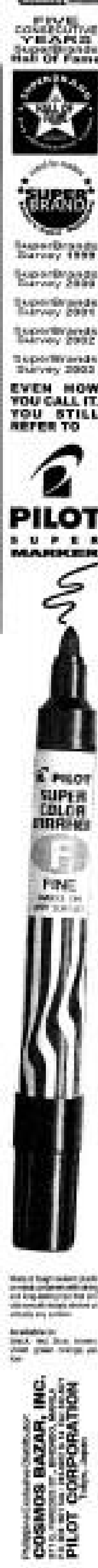


# Palestinians insist on right to declare state unilaterally

# Doctors' group decries rebuff of top stories







# Bush to seek new spacecraft for Nasa missions

## Mars rover transforms into mobile explorer



# N. Korea showed 'nuke deterrent' to US group

# Iran: No plan for talks with US



INQUIRER OPINION




# Funding the rebellion

EDITORIAL

# Why not use ballot paper intended for ACMs?

AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

# No, you don't

THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

# Faith

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

# Burlesque

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Noralyn Mustafa

# 'Porqué no está en Español esto comentario'

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

# Non-partisan news

READERS' ADVOCATE



Raul J. Palabrica

THEY SAID

## Population economics

# Shame for the infamous purges

LETTERS

## An election prayer

## No comment on sale of SSS shares

## Reach of TV show hosts' insensitivity

## Rudeness at LTO

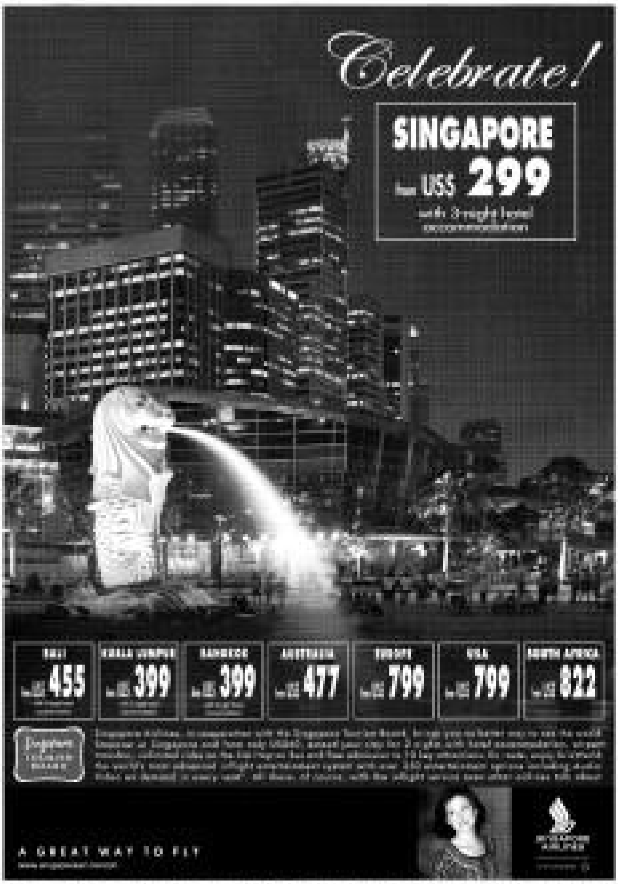
# AFP to NPA: Give us your best shot



BEST IN COSTUME

## Satur: Voters may leave blank spaces for president, veep

## 8 Bohol mayoral bets running unopposed



# Cebu vies for longest barbecue grill

## 15th eaglet batched in Davao



# Ex-CPP leader clarifies role in Mindanao purge

## Roundup

### US troops to stay

### Fishing vessels' crew held

### 14 nabbed for guns

### Blast wounds vendor

### Car thief nabbed

### Suspected pushers killed

# UN team brings relief items to landslide survivors

### San Ricardo

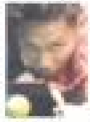
### San Francisco

# SPORTS






## Pagulayan repeats over Bata



PAGULAYAN

# WBC king Arce too tough for Gamboa

*RP fighter TKO'd in 2nd*

## Abadia forges semis showdown with Arcilla





RECYCLING

# Comelec regional offices still clueless on automated polls

## Child detainees seek alternatives to jail for kids

## Family of 3 killed in Laguna mishap

# Bet seeks late dad's post

# Senators hold caucus ...

# Court decision letting Estrada go to US is a joke

# Death convict still hoping he will live

### Jan. 30 schedule

### Innocent

### Cleared

### Mercy

# Filmfest breaks record

## Nine entries gross ₱329M in 15 days



### Very successful

### Revenue

## Something strange? Run!

# Lane dividers can never be safer—MMDA

## MetroBriefs

### The ring is key

### Crooks stay here

### Fatal gunplay

### Cyber shop rob

# Citizenship issue hounds Manila reelectionist solon

METRO

# *Payatas kids cheer up 'Peace' elder*



# North rail project starts soon



# BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Daniel B. Fortunato



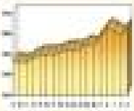
# BSP chief says growth target too high

## Currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



## PLDT soon leading market higher



# Transport groups urged to operate own stations

# Heavy spending before polls seen



# MBC 2003 policy report

MINDANAO ONI



*Jeji Rugan-Blom*



## PLDT

# Italian job 2

**COCKTALES**

*Victor C. Agustin*

OUR ambassador to Italy, Philippe Lhuillier, was supposed to fly back to Rome yesterday but had to indefinitely postpone the trip after being asked to report to the Department of Foreign Affairs today.

Lhuillier is scheduled to see Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert to explain the 40-foot container van of "second-hand" Italian furniture he shipped into the country mid-year last year.

Albert has summoned Lhuillier, whose family owns a string of pawnshops bearing his name as well as the Bocaine boutique of luxury European household items, after receiving an investigation report from Malacañang saying that the shipment had been facilitated using spurious Philippine Embassy documentation.

Lhuillier vigorously denied the allegation that he had brought the shipment, which he described as consisting of "religious junk" he had acquired from various flea markets, duty-free.

Lhuillier also claimed that:

■ He imported and shipped the 40-foot container van, whose contents had a declared value of $6,000, in his own personal capacity, despite official communication to the foreign shipper using the official stationery of the Embassy of the Philippines in Rome.

■ He paid $1,700 for the sea freight, but took no insurance cover since, in addition to being "religious junk," the shipment also consisted of "assorted Italian household furniture."

■ He paid a total of P92,000 in import duty and VAT to the Philippine Bureau of Customs. In addition, Lhuillier also paid his customs broker, Oriental Pilipinas, P140,000 to facilitate the release of the shipment out of the Port Area.

■ The entire furniture had all been stuffed inside the van without the benefit of packing and crating, contrary to the official declaration that the questioned shipment consisted of 170 "packages."

The shipment was, in various documents, described either as "used furniture" or "p of items."

■ It was his first and only importation from Italy ever since his appointment, his first diplomatic assignment, by President Estrada.

After the shipment had been released from Port Area, the container was delivered to 120 University Drive, Ayala Alabang, instead of the Dasmariñas Village address of Lhuillier, according to the brokerage delivery receipt.

Lhuillier said he was planning to use some of the furniture for a chapel, adding that he wants to join Opus Dei after failing to become a La Salle brother.

According to a former diplomat-friend of Lhuillier, a portion of the suspect shipment had also been consigned to a newspaper publisher.

**No new models**

THERE will be no new models this year from the three leading Japanese car assemblers, who would rather wait until after the May elections and the economic and investment climate becomes clearer.

Instead of new models, there will be a few improved variants of the existing lineup, such as for the 1.8-liter Corolla Altis (the 2004 version now has front and back sensors for parking, among other improvements) that were introduced by Toyota this weekend.

Honda, in the meantime, is set to introduce this week a two-liter engine version of its popular Civic.

**Heard through the grapevine**

HENRY Sy is consistent to scoop up Chinabank shares from the market, no matter how small the lot may be.

As of end December, the taipan's direct and indirect stake in Chinabank had inched up to 20.344 percent of the bank, up from 20.44 percent from the previous month.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_ps@yahoo.com or at cocktales_ps@hotmail.com)






# The SSS: The single biggest money loss ever

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

*Honesto C. General*

# Ispat unit improves offer for Nat'l Steel

# Pasar revenue up 50%



# RP faces removal from CalPERS list

# Downers and uppers

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito



## Bailing out

## Keeping faith

# Gov't to entice existing investors to stay put

# Australian exchange seeking minority equity stake in PSE

## Taiwan group eyes strategic alliance with Banco de Oro

DEAL SIGNED IN HAWAII

## PLDT, AT&T end rates row

## MVP calls for strengthening of ethics in gov't, business

CURRENCIES

INTEREST RATES

## SPECIAL POWER UTILITIES GROUP PROJECTS

# Napocor allots ₱14.8B for rural electrification



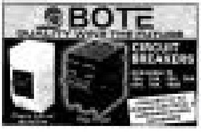
## Mindanao One

# Water shortage seen cutting rice output

# DTI seeks agri department help in stabilizing prices

## Heavy ...











# 'Kenkoy' lives

Almost 75 years after the comic strip appeared, the character—and the language—it introduced are still with us

By Yvette Cruz
Contributor

ON JAN. 11, 1929, Francisco "Kenkoy" Harabas came to life on the pages of Liwayway Magazine. The four-frame comic strip "Mga Kabalbalan ni Kenkoy" was considered fresh, inspired and seminal.

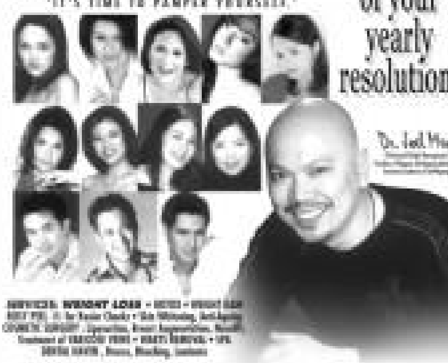




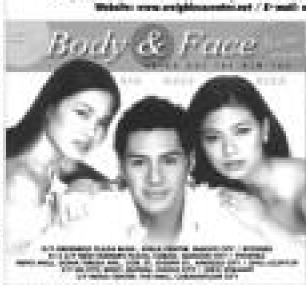
## Country bumpkin

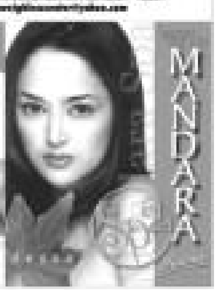




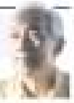






# Small Pinoys are heritage heroes

**PRIDE OF PLACE**



Augusto F. Villalon

Cebu's quaint Lincoln Street and Batanes' spectacular sights are kept alive by small folks









# The passion of collecting



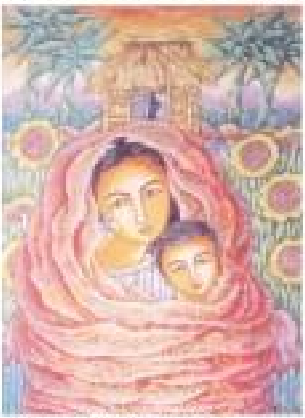
Review

# Pens for every pursuit or occasion

## Welcome levity

# UST holds writers forum

# Well-loved Filipino icon revisited



"MOTHER and Child of the Goddesses," by Mario Parial

## Master sculptor's works on exhibit







UNTITLED, by Lindsay Lee

## Emerging artists at Beato Angelico

VISUAL ARTS





Arts & Design

LifeStyle

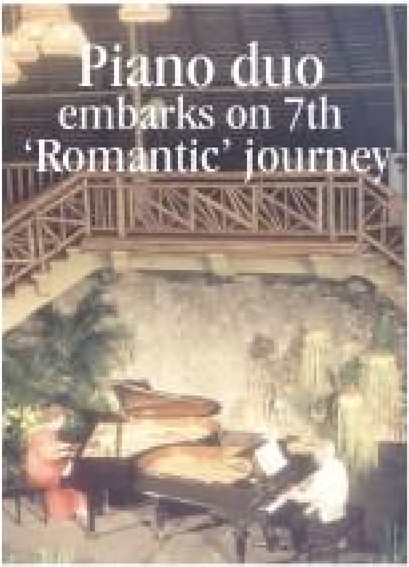
# 'Balik'-Makati for Rep

We opened our first season in our new home at Onstage in Greenbelt 1 with David Henry Hwang's award-winning 'M. Butterfly'





# Piano duo embarks on 7th 'Romantic' journey



A VIEW from the bamboo balcony side of the Villa Escudero's concert hall in San Pablo City with pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes framed by ornamental plants on stage

By Amadís C. Ma. [illegible]
Contributor

PIANISTS Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo G. Reyes are "going" on the seventh journey of the Romantic Piano Concerts this 2004.

[illegible]

Call 7117705 or 8027365.

# 'Balik'-Makati for Rep

From page C1

[illegible]



J.E. Joos (center) is the enigmatic diva Song Liling with Aniel Mendoza, Marlon Sarro, PJ Rebollido and Micole Manalo

[illegible]

## *Travel book launching*

THE LATEST travel book of Amadís Ma. Guerrero, "A String of Jewels," will be launched on Jan. 15 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Art Plaza, 6 p.m.